Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating physical human interactions over a communications network comprising:

detecting physical contact [[of]] with a first model by a first user located at a sending system, said first model representing at least a portion of a human body, wherein said first model incorporates one or more contact sensors;

detecting physical movement of said first user with one or more optical sensors located at said sending system, wherein the physical movement of said first user includes at least one of a body movement of said first user and a change in facial expression of said first user;

generating data from said sensors specifying the physical contact and the physical movement;

determining at least one action intended by said first user indicated by the generated data;

transmitting the determined action over a communications network to a receiving system; and

simulating the action by performing said action on a second user at the receiving system using a second model and activating the second model according to the physical movement, said second model representing at least said portion of said human body, wherein said second model incorporates one or more actuators.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, after said determining step, converting the data to markup language formatted data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of processing the markup language formatted data in the receiving system to identify the action.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the markup language formatted data specifies at least one actuator movement to be implemented by the second model at the receiving system and an amount of force to be applied in the at least one actuator movement.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, said simulating step further comprising the step of translating the action into instructions for activating at least one actuator; and activating the at least one actuator in accordance with the instructions.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting physical contact of the second model by a second user, wherein said second model incorporates one or more sensors;

generating data from said sensors specifying the physical contact of the second model;

determining at least one action intended by the second user indicated by the generated data;

transmitting the determined action over a communications network to the sending system; and

simulating the action by performing said action on the first user at the sending system using the first model, wherein said first model incorporates one or more actuators.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for communicating physical human interactions over a communications network comprising:

a first model incorporating at least one ~~sending~~ contact sensor configured to detect physical contact [[of]] with said first model by a first user located at a sending system, said first model representing at least a portion of a human body;

at least one optical sensor configured to detect physical movement of said first user, wherein the physical movement of said first user includes at least one of a body movement of said first user and a change in facial expression of said first user

a sending message transmission module configured to receive data from said at least one ~~sending~~ contact sensor and said at least one optical sensor and to determine an at least one intended action of said first user, said sending message transmission module further configured to transmit the action over a communications network;

a receiving message transmission module configured to receive the action transmitted over the communications network, said receiving message transmission module further configured to translate the action into instructions for activating at least one actuator;

a second model incorporating at least one receiving actuator configured to simulate the action [[on]] to a second user at a receiving location, said second model representing at least said portion of said human body.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising at least one sending actuator incorporated into said first model coupled with said sending message transmission module, said at least one sending actuator configured to simulate, on the first user, actions originating in said receiving message transmission module.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising at least one receiving sensor incorporated into said second model configured to detect physical contact of said second model by the second user, wherein said at least one receiving sensor is communicatively linked with the receiving message transmission module.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

detecting physical contact [[of]] with a first model by a first user located at a sending system, said first model representing at least a portion of a human body, wherein said first model incorporates one or more contact sensors;

detecting physical movement of said first user with one or more optical sensors located at said sending system, wherein the physical movement of said first user includes at least one of a body movement of said first user and a change in facial expression of said first user;

generating data from said sensors specifying the physical contact and the physical movement;

determining at least one action intended by said first user indicated by the generated data;

transmitting the determined action over a communications network to a receiving system; and

simulating the action by performing said action on a second user at the receiving system using a second model and activating the second model according to the physical movement, said second model representing at least said portion of said human body, wherein said second model incorporates one or more actuators.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of claim 13, further comprising ~~means~~ computer instructions for converting the data to markup language formatted data, wherein said means for converting are operable after said means for determining.

16. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 15, further comprising computer instructions for processing the markup language formatted data in the receiving system to identify the action.

17. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the markup language formatted data specifies at least one actuator movement to be implemented by the second model at the receiving system and an amount of force to be applied in the at least one actuator movement.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 13, said computer instructions for simulating further comprising:

translating the action into instructions for activating at least one actuator; and

activating the at least one actuator in accordance with the instructions.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ storage medium of claim 13, further comprising computer instructions for:

detecting physical contact of the second model by a second user, wherein said second model incorporates one or more sensors;

generating data from said sensors specifying the physical contact of the second model;

determining at least one action intended by the second user indicated by the generated data;

transmitting the determined action over a communications network to the sending system; and

simulating the action by performing said action on the first user at the sending system using the first model, wherein said first model incorporates one or more actuators.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said portion of said human body includes at least one among a human hand, a human head, a human face, and a human back.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said generated data specifies a time when a force was detected, the amount of said force, and a location on said human body to which said force was applied.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said action intended by said first user includes at least one among a handshake, an embrace, and a pat on the back.

25. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said portion of said human body includes at least one among a human hand, a human head, a human face, and a human back.

26. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said generated data specifies a time when a force was detected, the amount of said force, and a location on said human body to which said force was applied.

27. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said action intended by said first user includes at least one among a handshake, an embrace, and a pat on the back.